

What is claimed is:

1. A method of improving installation of software packages, comprising steps of:  
defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software installation package and one or more topology objects, wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects and wherein each topology object identifies one or more selected ones of the components;  
and  
populating the object model to describe a particular software installation package and one or more topologies for deployment of that particular software installation package.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of instantiating a plurality of objects according to the defined object model, and wherein the populating step populates the instantiated objects.

3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the instantiated objects are JavaBeans.

4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the instantiating step instantiates an object for the particular software installation package and one or more component objects for each software component included in the particular software installation package.

5. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
selecting at least one of the topologies for deployment; and  
using the populated object model to install the particular software installation package

4 using the selected topology.

1 6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of using the populated object model  
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software installation  
4 package is to be installed;

5 downloading the particular software installation package to the identified target machines;  
6 and

7 performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the downloaded  
8 particular software installation package.

1 7. The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of authenticating a server  
2 on which the downloading step operates prior to an operation of the step of performing the  
3 installation.

4 8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each topology object provides a recommended  
5 configuration of the software installation package.

1 9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each topology object provides a required  
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 10. A system for improving installation of software packages, comprising:

2 means for defining an object model representing a plurality of components of a software  
3 installation package and one or more topology objects, wherein each component comprises a  
4 plurality of objects and wherein each topology object identifies one or more selected ones of the  
5 components; and

6 means for populating the object model to describe a particular software installation  
7 package and one or more topologies for deployment of that particular software installation  
8 package.

1 11. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:

2 means for selecting at least one of the topologies for deployment; and

3 means for using the populated object model to install the particular software installation  
4 package using the selected topology.

5 12. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the means for using the populated object  
6 model further comprises:

7 means for identifying one or more target machines on which the particular software  
8 installation package is to be installed;

9 means for downloading the particular software installation package to the identified target  
10 machines; and

11 means for performing an installation at each of the identified target machines using the  
12 downloaded particular software installation package.

1 13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein each topology object provides a recommended  
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 14. The system according to Claim 10, wherein each topology object provides a required  
2 configuration of the software installation package.

1 15. A computer program product for improving installation of software packages, the  
2 computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for defining an object model representing a  
4 plurality of components of a software installation package and one or more topology objects,  
5 wherein each component comprises a plurality of objects and wherein each topology object  
6 identifies one or more selected ones of the components; and

7 computer-readable program code means for populating the object model to describe a  
8 particular software installation package and one or more topologies for deployment of that  
9 particular software installation package.

1 16. The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising:

2 computer-readable program code means for selecting at least one of the topologies for  
3 deployment; and

4 computer-readable program code means for using the populated object model to install the  
5 particular software installation package using the selected topology.

1 17. The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the computer-readable  
2 program code means for using the populated object model further comprises:

3 computer-readable program code means for identifying one or more target machines on  
4 which the particular software installation package is to be installed;

5 computer-readable program code means for downloading the particular software  
6 installation package to the identified target machines; and

7 computer-readable program code means for performing an installation at each of the  
8 identified target machines using the downloaded particular software installation package.

1 18. The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein each topology object  
2 provides a recommended configuration of the software installation package.

1 19. The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein each topology object  
2 provides a required configuration of the software installation package.